

REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 17, 18, 20, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner also states that claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 24 and 25 contradict independent claims 1, 10, and 20. Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 24 and 25 have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 through 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Webb, U.S. Patent No. 6,542,371, hereinafter referred to as "Webb."

Applicants submit, herewith, a declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to overcome Webb. The declaration shows the invention as claimed in the above identified application had been conceived prior to the November 2, 2000 priority date of Webb.

As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3 through 28 are not anticipated by Web, and further are patentable over Web.

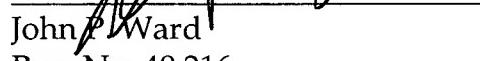
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, all rejections have been overcome. All pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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